

Claims

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1           1. A method of interconnecting a first server computer  
2           Sub (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second server  
3           AH4 computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of said  
4           first server computer (112) and said second server  
5           computer (122) being connected to at least one client  
6           computer (111, 121);

7           said first server computer (112) running a first  
8           workflow management system application (3), and said  
9           second server computer (122) running a second workflow  
10           management system application (4);

11           said method comprising providing a first and a second  
12           connector application (5a, 6a) for permitting said first  
13           server computer (112) access to a copy of said first  
14           connector application (5a) and for permitting said  
15           second server computer (122) access to a copy of said  
16           second connector application (6a);

17           wherein said copies of said first and said second  
18           connector application (5a, 6a) each comprises a  
19           connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7)  
20           of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by said  
21           first workflow management system application (3);

22           which copy of said first connector application (5a)  
23           further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a

24       first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology  
25       (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector  
26       application (6a) further comprises a second mapping  
27       table (13) including a second service terminology (13a)  
28       and said common terminology (9b, 13b);  
29         
30       *Cont Sub A4*    {  
31       said first work task (7) being transposed by said first  
32       mapping table (9) from said first service terminology  
33       (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common  
34       terminology (9b, 13b);  
35         
36       said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said  
37       second server computer (122) over a common connection  
38       (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being  
39       transposed to a second work task (15) by said second  
40       mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b)  
41       into said second service terminology (4a), and said  
42       second work task (15) being processed by said second  
43       workflow management system application (4).  
44         
45       2. The method of claim 1 wherein said processed second  
46       work task (15) generates a result (wo1, wo2), said result  
47       (wo1, wo2) being transposed by said second mapping table  
48       (13) from said second service terminology (13a) into an  
49       output data set (op1, op2) in said common terminology  
50       (9b, 13b), said mapped output data set (op1, op2) being  
51       marshalled to said first server computer (112) over said  
52       common connection (17), and said marshalled output data  
53       being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from  
54       said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said first service  
55       terminology (9a).  
56

1       3. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said first  
2       connector application (5a) resides in a first access  
3       device (5) of said service requestor (1); said first  
4       access device (5) comprising a first access computer  
5       including said first connector application (5a).

1       4. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said  
2       second connector application (6a) resides in a second  
3       access device (6) of said service provider (2); said  
4       second access device (6) comprising a second access  
5       computer including said second connector application  
6       (6a).

1       5. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of the first  
2       connector application (5a) resides in said first server  
3       computer (112) of said service requestor (1).

1       6. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of the second  
2       connector application (6a) resides in said second server  
3       computer (122) of said service provider (2).

1       7. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said first  
2       connector application (5a) resides in said first client  
3       computer (111).

1       8. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said  
2       second connector application (6a) resides in said second  
3       client computer (121).

1       9. The method of claim 1 wherein said first workflow  
2       management system application (3) is essentially the same

3 as said second workflow management system application  
4 (4).

1 10. A computer network comprising a first server  
2 computer (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second  
3 server computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of  
4 said first server computer (112) and said second server  
5 computer (122) being connected to at least one client  
6 computer (111, 121);

7 said first server computer (112) running a first workflow  
8 management system application (3), and said second server  
9 computer (122) running a second workflow management  
10 system application (4);

11 said first and second server computer (112, 122) being  
12 interconnected by means of a first and a second connector  
13 application (5a, 6a) arranged in such a manner that said  
14 first server computer (112) having access to a copy of  
15 said first connector application (5a) and said second  
16 server computer (122) having access to a copy of said  
17 second connector application (6a);

18 wherein said first and said second connector application  
19 (5a, 6a) each comprise a connection agreement (8, 12) for  
20 a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18)  
21 encompassed by said first workflow management system  
22 application (3);

23 which copy of said first connector application (5a)  
24 further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a  
25 first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology

26 (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector  
27 application (6a) further comprises a second mapping table  
28 (13) including a second service terminology (13a) and  
29 said common terminology (13b);

30 said first work task (7) being transposed by said first  
31 mapping table (9) from said first service terminology  
32 (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common  
33 terminology (9b, 13b);

34 said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said  
35 second server computer (122) over a common connection  
36 (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being  
37 transposed to a second work task (15) by said second  
38 mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b)  
39 into said second service terminology (13a), and said  
40 second work task (15) being processed by said second  
41 workflow management system application (4).

1 11. The network of claim 10 wherein said processed  
2 second work task (15) generates a result (wo1, wo2), said  
3 result (wo1, wo2) being transposed by said second mapping  
4 table (13) from said second service terminology (13a)  
5 into an output data (op1, op2) in said common terminology  
6 (9b, 13b), said mapped output data set (op1, op2) being  
7 marshalled to said first server computer (112) over said  
8 common connection (17), and said marshalled output data  
9 being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from  
10 said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said first service  
11 terminology (2a).

1       12. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said  
2       first connector application (5a) resides in a first  
3       access device (5) of said service requestor (1), which  
4       first access device (5) comprises a first access computer  
5       including said first connector application (5a).

1       13. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said  
2       second connector application (6a) resides in a second  
3       access device (6) of said service provider (2), which  
4       second access device (6) comprises a second access  
5       computer including said second connector application  
6       (6a).

1       14. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of the  
2       first connector application (5a) resides in said first  
3       server computer (112) of said service requestor (1).

1       15. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of the  
2       second connector application (6a) resides in the second  
3       server computer (122) of said service provider (2).

1       16. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said  
2       first connector application (5a) resides in said first  
3       client computer (111).

1       17. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said  
2       second connector application (6a) resides in said second  
3       client computer (121).

1       18. The network of claim 10 wherein said first workflow  
2       management system application (3) is essentially the same

3 as said second workflow management system application  
4 (4) .

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